

IN THE CLAIMS

46. (Amended) A method according to claim 45 wherein the [method] step of sensing senses pressure applied during the obtaining of a fingerprint and further includes the step of using the resistance sensed by each sensor to determine the fingerprint.

47. (Amended) An apparatus for sensing pressure comprising:

a substrate;

a sensor formed on the substrate that is adapted to sense pressure applied thereto, the sensor including:

a support structure that is smaller than the substrate, thereby providing a cavity above a portion of the substrate; and

a magnetoresistive sensor formed over the support structure.

Please add the following claims:

---62. An apparatus according to claim 1 wherein the change in resistance upon the application of pressure is measured using a current that is adapted to detect the change in resistance.

63. An apparatus according to claim 21 wherein the change in resistance upon the application of pressure is measured using a current that is adapted to detect the change in resistance.

64. A method according to claim 41 wherein the step of sensing the resistance senses the resistance upon the application of pressure using a current that is adapted to detect the resistance after the resistance has changed due to the application of pressure.

65. An apparatus according to claim 47 wherein a change in resistance upon the application of pressure is measured using a current that is adapted to detect the change in resistance.

66. An apparatus according to claim 21 wherein the plurality of sensors each detect pressure applied during the obtaining of a fingerprint and the resistance sensed by each of the plurality of sensors is used to determine the fingerprint, certain of the sensors detecting ridges of the fingerprint, and other ones of the sensors detecting valleys of the fingerprint.

67. A method according to claim 42 wherein the step of sensing senses the resistance that corresponds to pressure of each of the plurality of sensors upon placement of a fingerprint thereon, certain of the sensors detecting ridges of the fingerprint, and other ones of the sensors detecting valleys of the fingerprint.

68. An apparatus according to claim 56 wherein the plurality of sensors each detect pressure applied during the obtaining of a fingerprint and the resistance sensed by each of the plurality of sensors is used to determine the fingerprint, certain of the sensors detecting ridges of the fingerprint, and other ones of the sensors detecting valleys of the fingerprint. ---